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Homer's *Odyssey*, Books I-IV; edited on the basis of the Ameis-Hentze edition by B. PERRIN, Professor in Adelbert College of Western Reserve University. Square 8vo. Greek and English indices. 229 pp. Boston, Ginn & Co., 1889.

This edition of the *Odyssey* α - δ belongs to the College Series of Greek Authors which Messrs. Ginn & Co. are publishing under the editorial supervision of Professor J. W. White of Harvard and Professor Seymour of Yale. It is the second portion of Homer in the series to appear, the first, published about two years ago, being an edition of the *Iliad* A-I by Professor Seymour. Professor Perrin, as is briefly stated in the title-page of his book, has based the commentary on the Ameis-Hentze edition of 1884, and his notes are therefore mainly exegetical. He has, however, added an appendix which, although of much less elaborate character than the extensive *Anhang* of the German edition, contains in admirably concise form much that is of value for critical purposes. The text is that of Dindorf revised by Hentze, Leipzig, Teubner, 1884, but it may be noted that Professor Perrin uses brackets in passages which are confessedly uncertain much less freely than the German editor, and that he is now and then distinctly in favor of retaining verses which are bracketed in the German edition, e. g. α 278 = β 197, γ 95, 199 f. (cf. Appendix).

In accordance with the statement in his preface, Professor Perrin has not simply translated the German notes, but has freely adapted them to what he believes to be the requirements of American college classes. This work has certainly been extremely well done, and with an originality and independence which makes one inclined to ask why so good a Homeric scholar as Professor Perrin should wish to "base" his edition on that of another editor. It really seems hardly worth while that he should suppress his individual judgment as he does, for example, in the notes on α 151, β 60 (cf. Appendix). The mass of Homeric commentary accumulated by a long line of scholars is now so immense and has so largely become common property that it almost seems a question whether the American editor really owes so very much more to the notes of Ameis-Hentze than those scholars owed to their immediate predecessors. The *form* of the American book agrees unquestionably quite closely with that of the German, but in general Professor Perrin might very properly say, as Ameis did in the preface to his first edition, that he had used the work of other scholars *mit selbständigem Urteil*.

If, however, the book be judged simply according to its professions, there can be no doubt that the exegetical notes are a distinct improvement upon those of the German original, always remembering of course that no attempt has been made to furnish any large amount of such supplementary material as is to be found in the Ameis-Hentze *Anhang*. Any one who will take the trouble to make a systematic comparison of the notes in the two editions will be convinced of this. Compare, for example, the notes on α 14-21, 53; γ 109, 171; δ 231 f., 636 etc. Many new notes too have been added. On the other hand it is not an easy matter to find corresponding notes of Ameis-Hentze which are superior; cf. α 45 where there is no citation of identical verses, β 100 where no remark on *πηνελγέος* is made, δ 477 where there is no comment on *διπετέος*. These are surely not very weighty omissions. Professor Perrin, moreover, shows markedly in his commentary the thoroughness and simplicity in syntactical explana-

tion which is certainly a characteristic of the better class of college text-books that have been produced by American scholars; cf. β 43, and the many references to standard grammars. Most helpful also are the frequent comparisons of Attic usage. Now and then English idioms analogous to the Greek are introduced to excellent purpose; cf. β 9, where we find the "assemble and meet together" of the Prayer Book; again, β 345 the formula from Genesis I, "and it was evening and it was morning," and δ 380 "weather-bound," 540 "live and breathe," 743 "dear child," etc.

There can then be no question in regard to the admirable character of Professor Perrin's notes as a whole, but with this very certain opinion I may yet be allowed to offer a few criticisms upon particular features in them. And first of all there seems to be too much statistical information mixed in with the exegesis. Such remarks as have been most fitly placed in the appendix against α 4, 21; β 20; δ 2, 4, 342 are freely scattered through the explanatory notes. They are so numerous that it is hardly worth while to cite examples. Frequently also statistics are given without references, as γ 248, "The last five feet occur ten times in the Iliad." There ought, it seems to me, to be more than this, or else nothing at all, and I cannot think that the citing of *iterati* and *formulae* "for the eye merely" (cf. preface) is a good plan when it tends, as it does in the present case, to make the notes a little tedious. Seymour's Iliad A-T in this same series has less statistical information and more citation of passages from other poets which are calculated constantly to stimulate the student's interest in comparative literature, besides giving to the commentary a very charming literary flavor more or less foreign, by the way, to its German original. The notes to the Odyssey are not lacking in this quality, but it is not distinctly prominent and is obscured to some degree by statistics.

In the preface to his book Professor Perrin says in explanation of the critical notes in the appendix which contain the principal variations of the best MSS and the readings of some prominent scholars, that "these data will not seem pedantic to those whose library privileges are limited." This is excellent, and similar data touching *Realien* would, I am sure, have been very useful to students and more especially to teachers. Such references have been given in a number of cases, e. g. α 333 (appendix), γ 10 (appendix), 440, 464 (appendix), δ 627, but in connection with α 357 and β 94 Blümner's excellent discussion of spinning and weaving (Technol. d. Gr. u. Röm. S. 109 ff.) might well have been referred to. I have further noted the following passages where Helbig (Das Hom. Epos) has important and pertinent remarks: α 440, γ 399 (p. 124 anm. 5), 63 (pp. 358 ff.), 162 (pp. 158 ff.), 384, 425 f., 437 (pp. 266 f.), 408 (p. 98), 460 (pp. 353 ff.; interesting citation p. 358 of 1 Sam. II 13 ff.); δ 42 (p. 100), 71 ff. (see index s. v. Menelaos), 131 (p. 108 anm. 13), 305 (p. 205), 618 (p. 367 and in general with regard to Phœnician importations). Nearly all these references might furnish helpful suggestions to the teacher and would in no wise usurp his functions.

It remains to call attention to a few places of minor importance where perhaps some improvement might be possible or where a query suggests itself. α 64, see Butcher and Lang's interesting note on this verse. 92, a note on *ἐλικας* in the appendix desirable. 136, *προχόω* is called a *lokaler Dativ* by All., a dative of means by Perrin; no note in appendix on the change. 267, *ἐν γούνασι*

κεῖται seems worth a note in the appendix. β 20, AH., while admitting the difficulty of so doing (*Anhang*), construe *πύμαρον* with *τόν*; this is not noted in the appendix. 100, a note on *τανηλεγέος* desirable. γ 315, is the prohibitory character of the *μή* clause beyond a doubt? δ 195, add reference to ο 50. 489, a note on *ἀδείκει* desirable. In the useful bibliography which Professor Perrin has appended to his book the *latest* edition of Merry's *Odyssey* (1887), and that of Keep's *Autenrieth* (1888) should be noted. I have observed but one misprint, β 396 (note), for *πλάζει* read *πλάζε*.

The exegetical notes are printed on the same page with the text, according to the plan which the supervising editors have most wisely adopted, and the work of printer and publisher is of the same very admirable character which is to be seen in the other books of Messrs. Ginn & Co.'s College Series. Such excellent exegetical editions of Homer as these which have been begun by Professor Seymour and Professor Perrin have never before been put into the hands of younger students either in this country or, so far as I know, in England. If only we had larger portions of Homer so edited, it can hardly be doubted that they would be in great demand. As it is, teachers even of beginners want for their classes more than three books of the *Iliad* or four of the *Odyssey*.

J. R. WHEELER.

Elene; Judith; Athelstan, or the Fight at Brunanburh; and Byrhtnoth, or the Fight at Maldon: Anglo-Saxon poems. Translated by JAMES M. GARNETT, M. A., LL. D. Boston, Ginn & Co., 1889.

Much of what one might venture to say on the subject of how Anglo-Saxon poetry should be translated would, in all probability, soon become mere anachronism. There has been enough of that sort of criticism to establish this probability, if not indeed to raise it into the domain of demonstrated proof. Before we are prepared to make exact estimates of a translation, we must have the key to a thorough sympathy with the original, and such appreciation is born of accurate knowledge. Obviously then, while in the very midst of an inductive study of the art-form of the Anglo-Saxon poets, while the sifting and the resifting of collected facts is carrying us along by the gradual steps of theory to theory, it would be an act of rash precipitancy to declare the induction closed, and to fix a corresponding standard of judicial criticism. The belief that we are rapidly approaching a knowledge of the mechanical structure of Anglo-Saxon verse is surely well founded, but it is even yet perilous to predict the end. And when that end has been reached, a new discipline will doubtless be required to lead us to a quick and responsive perception of the more subtle, the more vital elements of the early poet's workmanship.

But, to be more concrete, of all recent translations of Anglo-Saxon verse, the method employed by Professor Garnett in his translation of the *Béowulf* is undoubtedly that which has become most familiar to the general student, while the judgment passed upon it by scholars is equally familiar to technical readers. In introducing to the public the present volume of translations, therefore, it is almost if not quite sufficient merely to say that Professor Garnett has adhered to his previous canon of literal line-for-line translation, with its disavowal of "ideal correctness of rhythm." It cannot be said that the translator